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Governor Vilsack Wants Iowa Taxpayers to Bail Out His Reckless Spending

Governor Tom Vilsack yesterday outlined a plan to increase sales taxes, business taxes, property taxes, and cigarette taxes. He blames Iowa's budget troubles on inadequate tax revenue. The real problem is the reckless spending under his administration.

Since 1999 Governor Vilsack:

- Supported a \$40 million plan to decrease class size despite already declining K-12 enrollment.
- Supported a \$250 to \$300 million plan to boost teacher pay despite average teacher pay being 33% more than average private sector pay in Iowa.
- Negotiated a \$101 million pay raise for state employees in 2003, despite being in the midst of a budget crisis.
- Supports saddling taxpayers with even more obligations through the corporate welfare boondoggle known as the "Grow Iowa Values" Fund.

Despite this record of reckless, irresponsible, and unnecessary spending, Governor Vilsack actually expects Iowa taxpayers to pick up the bill for his spendthrift habits. The proper solution is to look for ways to cut more spending, not burden the average Iowan with more taxes.

To avoid such debacles in the future, Iowa needs Constitutional Amendments that require a 2/3s vote of the Legislature and approval of the voters to raise taxes, and limit future state spending to increases for inflation and population growth.

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